Exchange of wheat for oil with Iraq

*30. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains sent to Iraq under the food for oil agreement agreed by the U.N.O.;

(b) the quantum of oil received by Indian under the above agreement; and

(c) what are the details of the future plans under this exchange agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No such exchange of foodgrains against oil has taken place.

(c) An understanding has been reached, in principle, about Counter Trade Arrangements which would enable Iraq to effect import of certain food items (especially wheat) against export to crude oil and oil products.

Indians charged for drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia

*31. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indians of a particular State are being charged recently for drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Indians do not get any legal or other assistance from the Indian Government Missions in Riyadh and Jeddah; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) According to available information, over the last two years, 30 Indians have been arrested on charges of illegal trafficking in narcotics.